

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 2 of the Specification as shown below:

—During operation, entities or “agents” of the computer system often generate interrupt signals in response to a need for service or the detection of an error by those entities or agents, which may include processors, memory controllers, input/output (I/O) devices, etc. For example, when an I/O device requests some particular type of service or action from a processor, it often signals the processor by issuing an interrupt. Specifically, the I/O device may assert an interrupt input pin of either of the processor or of an interrupt controller, which forwards the interrupt to the processor. Provided the interrupt is permitted, it will be acknowledged by the processor at the end of the current processor cycle. The processor then services the interrupt typically by branching to a special service routine written to handle that particular interrupt. Upon servicing the interrupt, the processor signals the I/O device that it completed the interrupt, typically with a write to the device, and the I/O device deasserts the interrupt signal. The processor then signals to the interrupt controller that the interrupt event has been serviced, typically with an end of interrupt signal. —